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LETTER

FROM A

Noble LORD

IN

DUBLIN,

TO A

Gentleman in the Country.

The Second Edition.



DUBLIN

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MDCCXL



Dublin, March 1st. 1739.

SIR,

THe Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonsof this City, having many Months since, granted a generous Benefaction to the *Incorporated Society, &c.* In order to encourage the establishing a *Charter School* near the Metropolis; I can now with pleasure assure you, that the Society, after long Search, have at last been accommodated with a convenient Piece of Ground, by the Favour of the *Right Honourable Luke Gardiner, Esq^r.*

The Situation is desirable, not above three Miles from the City, near the Avenue of *Santry-House*; It is a place Conspicuous, and having a good Road to it, may be easily visited from *Dublin*, and the Country round it.

The Land is fit for the produce of Flax, &c. and being well watered, is every way proper for carrying on the *Linen Manufacture*, in which the Children are to be chiefly employed.

The Foundation is to consist of Forty Boys, to be bred up in the Art of Flax Dressing, a Trade of great Use, which still wants much Improvement among us.

An Institution of this Kind is not less necessary near this City, than in some of the remote Parts of the Kingdom; for the *Protestants* of all Denominations within the *County of Dublin*, (as I am informed) do not exceed Ten Thousand; whereas the *Papists* are about Thirty Thousand.

Had this excellent Scheme of Educating *Popish* Children in the *Protestant Religion*, and keeping them in the mean Time out of the Influence of their Priests, and employing them in useful Labour; I say, had this Method earlier prevailed in our Island; we had been safe from those Scenes of Distraction and Misery, which we suffered twice in one Century; And notwithstanding the great Accession of Strength to the *Protestant Interest* since that Time, yet we cannot think our selves perfectly secure, so long as there are more than a *Million* of that People, still found among us, unreclaimed from their dangerous Errors.

We may justly look upon them as Enemies within our own Bowels; for Enemies they must ever be to a *Protestant Government*, so long as they continue under the Direction of the *Church of Rome*.

It

It were to be wished that the different Circumstances of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* were duly compared in this single respect.

What has *Great Britain* to guard against upon any Emergency, but a Foreign Enemy; whereas ours are at our very Doors, and even of our own Families, and upon any unhappy Conjunction, may be ready to rise, and unite to destroy us.

One wou'd hope, that Dangers so great, and imminent, shou'd awaken not only a few, but the whole Collective Body of Protestants, to provide for the common Safety; which never can be done effectually, without a change of Religion in the *Natives*: But how can this change be effected?

To expect the Conversion of the Multitude, who have been bred up in an utter aversion to the *Reformed Religion*, and not allowed even to think, or judge for themselves, is little less than to expect Miracles.

What then is to be done? By what Means may we expect to see the bulk of the *Natives* become *Protestants*? There is evidently but one way left of obtaining this happy end; and that is, by laying the Foundation in the Children of the *Popish Natives*, and early Training them up in the *Protestant Religion*, and at the same Time in Labour, and Industry.

Here

Here is our only Resource; and this is the great End of His *Majesty's Charter*; and if every Well-wisher to the *Protestant Interest*, and the *Prosperity of his Country*, would heartily co-operate with these Views, the Success by Experience, would answer our Endeavours.

But this is a Work that cannot be carried on through the *Nation* without large Supplies, and by the joint Contributions of many; And if many would contribute out of their Abundance, what Success might we not expect in a few Years, from an Undertaking so beneficial to us, and our Posterity?

His Majesty has been graciously pleased to encourage the Design by a *noble Benefaction*, and the *Protestants of England*, who in the Reign of *King James II.* most hospitably entertained the Exiles of *Ireland*, have again renewed their Bounty and Charity, by large and seasonable Contributions; which the corresponding *Society at London*, do still kindly continue to solicit, and promote to good Advantage.

And should not we, who are thus refreshed by Streams from Abroad, after their Example, open more Fountains of Charity at Home, when the Benefit will return to our selves?

Yes

Yes certainly, the necessity of the Thing speaks strongly for it; but the present Income of the Society is far from being sufficient to answer the Demands of the *Nation*, and many fair proposals for erecting more Schools, have been held in reserve by the Society for that very Reason; so that the Work must go on slowly and faintly, without further Aids.

To our Children and Posterity, the good Effects will appear considerable; but we cannot hope to reap those Benefits in our Days, unless the Fund should be augmented.

Many Gentlemen of this Kingdom have not been backward to encourage all useful Schemes, which promise any Benefit to the Publick; And should they once happily view this glorious Design in the Light wherein it appears to others, who have been kind Benefactors to it, we need not despair of its having their Favour, and Countenance.

One *Charter School* for every *County*, and *principal City*, super-added to those already erected, would spread the Benefit wide, and we should see the happy Influence of the *Charter Scheme* through the *Nation* in a few Years.

But give me leave to say, That the Progress of this good Work will be slow, and feeble, unless Gentlemen of Interest and Fortune in their several Counties, should take it up, and
favour

favour it with their Protection, and Encouragement; then indeed, such working Schools could not but flourish, and answer their Designs with great Advantage, under their own Eyes and Inspection.

However this may happen, it is certain, that every prudent and laudable Attempt to reclaim the great Number of *Papists* in this *Kingdom*, from their dangerous Errors, is a Design worthy of all due Encouragement, since by the *Divine Assistance*, it may prove at least one likely Method to promote and strengthen the *Protestant Interest*, the Security and Happiness of His *Majesty's Government*, and the general Good, and Improvement of the whole *Nation*.

I am,

S I R,

Yours, &c.

